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YASSKY'S PLAN

End Sunday meters, try permits for parking

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Councilman David Yassky may have taken a deep breath before making his New Year's resolutions.

The first-term councilman ended 2002 with a massive to-the-Brooklyn administration outlining a series of ambitious priorities for his Downtown Brooklyn district.

In a Dec. 24 letter to Dept. of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ruth Yassky urged the administration to implement a pilot program for residential parking permits in the areas surrounding Downtown Brooklyn to reduce abuses of government-issued parking permits; consider implementing a bus loop around Downtown Brooklyn; and pull back Sunday-metered parking on some commercial and residential streets.

"I believe the issue of greatest concern to the residents of Brooklyn and the surrounding neighborhoods is the impact additional development will have on traffic and parking," Yassky wrote. "In downtown Brooklyn and the nearby residential areas already suffer severe congestion."

ON THE WATERFRONT Gov. pushes development

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Towards the end of his Jan. 8 State of the State address, after talk of terror threats and fiscal crisis, education, welfare, crime, Gov. George Pataki said, "Let's continue to reclaim our waterfronts and provide new recreational opportunities for the families of New York."

Later in the year, the governor looked toward Borough President Marty Markowitz, who was in the audience, and said, "Isn't that right, Marty?"

That year held plenty of cause for celebration as the city came to the Brooklyn waterfront, and while many with a great deal of detail for details on how to do it, the city had a several billion dollar deficit, the wind and nod from the governor to the borough president in Albany may indicate that the facilities of the Brooklyn waterfront should be one of our top priorities.

Markowitz said the two talked later that evening and agreed, "So I know this is only the opening salvo in the budget process. But I wholeheartedly agree that reclaiming Brooklyn's waterfront should be one of our top priorities."

Though Markowitz and Pataki used to sit on opposite sides of the aisle as state senators, the recently re-elected governor has taken a particular shine to

Though Yassky, whose district includes DUMBO, Downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill and a portion of Park Slope, voted in favor of the extension of seven-day-a-week meter parking last November — as part of the budget modification agreement between Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council — he thought the program should now be reined in.

In his letter, he cited Fulton Ferry as a neighborhood that does not feature a bustling commercial presence and said it therefore made little sense to encourage high turnover of parking spaces.

"Many of the streets are not commercial streets," Yassky wrote, "including the newly renamed Fulton Ferry area where a community is trying to encourage waterfront activity."

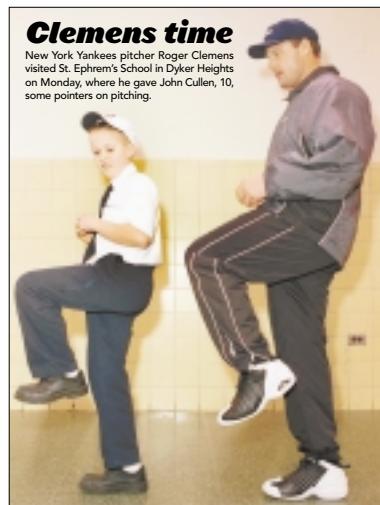
Many of the suggestions are a hodgepodge of issues that have been lobbied for by community organizations such as 4 pm to 7 pm parking on Atlantic Avenue and stricter enforcement of municipal parking regulations.

The effort of Atlantic Avenue merchants to drum up See YASSKY on page 4

Mayor dooms districts

Clemens time

New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens visited St. Ephrem's School in Dyker Heights on Monday, where he gave John Cullen, 10, some pointers on pitching.



Proposes school reforms citywide

By Deborah Kolben and Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg pulled back the curtains Wednesday on a sweeping body of reform that seek to dissolve the current structure of Community School Boards as part of a complete overhaul on the city's educational system.

Taking the stage at Harlem's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Bloomberg said, "We are at the dawn of a new movement." One that will liberate the next generation of New Yorkers from the devastating consequences of continued educational failure."

Bloomberg proposed to "put an end to decades of confused and confused educational administration" by streamlining the "Byzantine administrative fields that multiplied under the Board of Ed."

Under the proposal, a single chain of command would begin with the chancellor and flow through the city's schools, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Under the new structure, which has different levels of accountability for middle and elementary schools and for high schools



Michael Bloomberg SP / File

the Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, a position currently held by Diana Lam.

Each Learning Support Center would be headed by a superintendent, selected by Schools Chancellor Joel Klein based on "extraordinary past achievement," Bloomberg said, and from Tweed Courthouse the superintendent would come from city policy.

Each Learning Support Center would also have a regional base in city-owned or leased property to house 10 local instructional supervisors, who would oversee no more than a dozen nearby schools each.

"In other words," Bloomberg said, "on the instructional side, accountability and responsibility goes directly to one deputy superintendent to 10 regional superintendents to 100 local instructional supervisors, to 1,200 principals to 80,000 teachers to 1,100,000 students, who we are here to serve." Bloomberg's proposal also calls for a "parent ambassador" for each school, whose job would be to engage parents in their child's education and serve as a liaison between the school and the community.

The mayor also proposed that school boards be replaced with "parent engagement boards" for each school "on which only par-

See MAYOR on page 4

Anti-Semitic graffiti mars home

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

ground that appeared to have been made with brushstrokes.

Alongside the bigoted defacement, vulgar graffiti "tags" also marred the exterior of the incident. On Tuesday, they gathered to decry the bigoted act of vandalism.

"When I came home and saw it were shocked," she said. "My daughter said, 'You didn't see any Christmas lights out, and I told you to go to bed!'"

Their home was one of the few on the block that did not have Christmas lights, and although they don't celebrate Christmas the way they used to, the woman said she still regularly urges her parents to put the lights because she thought they were pretty.

The woman, who is a non-practicing Catholic, and her husband, who is Jewish, have lived in the neighborhood for 10 years. "My only concern is that she not hide who she is," the mother said of her daughter.

They spoke to friends and the police in Kensington neighborhood, who elected a local eventually got word of the incident. On Tuesday, they gathered to decry the bigoted act of vandalism.

"Despite how good the neighbors are, and how good the people are, we can't just say 'Get out and send a message,'" said DeBlasio, whose district includes parts of Park Slope, Kensington, Borough Park, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Park Slope Tenants. "From my perspective, this is absolutely unacceptable in our community."

"This is one of the most rel-

igious diverse communities in New York City," said Markowitz. "We have to do this and needs the Lord very badly."

See GRAFFITI on page 6



The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

CB6 OKs Slope building height limits



By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 6 passed a long-sought proposal to impose height limits on a huge swath of Park Slope Wednesday night, but the board did so without adding an affordable housing incentive for developers along Fourth Avenue.

A previous amendment to decrease the allowable height on Fourth Avenue with an allowance to build above the zoning limit of 20 percent of the units on the board did so without adding an affordable housing incentive for the board's Land Use committee. But the issues of height and affordability were raised again before the full board on Jan. 8, this time exclusive of one another.

"We have a housing shortage," said board member Michele Bonan, who urged the board to amend the plan to include 20 percent affordable housing on Fourth Avenue. "But really, we have an affordable housing shortage."

The City Planning Commission Chairwoman Amanda Burden told the board Wednesday night that the pri-

mary goal of the proposal is to "preserve the historic character of Park Slope" and "create more opportunities for affordable housing construction." The Department of City Planning is reviewing the plan through the land use review process.

Bonan proposed that the board amend the plan to allow for creating affordable housing on Fourth Avenue with the goal that 20 percent of the new units developed along Fourth Avenue be affordable to low-income families.

The amendment was a scaled-down version of an ultimately unsuccessful proposal that came before the Land Use committee last month.

At that meeting, the Fifth Avenue Committee, a non-profit affordable housing advocacy group in Park Slope, pushed for the proposal to add "inclusionary zoning" along Fourth Avenue, which would decrease the allowable height on the avenue but give developers the opportunity to build above the zoning if 20 percent of their units were affordable to low- and middle-income people.

After further discussion, the developer receives a density bonus or additional development rights of approximately 20 percent if they build affordable housing within their development," Lander told the Land Use committee last month.

Symptomatic of the amendments and complexities of the amendment — and unwilling to delay the new zoning — See SLOPE REZONE on page 2

Crossing lines

Democratic U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (right) had glowing words for new state Sen. Marty Golden, a Republican, at his inauguration at John Dewey High School on Sunday. The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangi

DUMBO's a furniture destination

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

David Walentas, who is the largest single landowner in DUMBO. "So that's something we'd like to promote."

After the show, he and Hirsch took a 10-year lease on 40,000 square feet of retail space at 20 Jay St., joining local and nationally known furniture designers and retailers in the neighborhood, such as 20th Century Modern, at 57 Bond St., and Sonoma, which has a five-year lease on 25,000 square feet of design studio space in 55 Washington St. In addition, Hadco, a nationally known lighting manufacturer, is bringing its 10-year lease on 5,000 square feet of space in 1 Main St. next spring.

"There's no concrete plan to make it a furni-

ture district," Walentas said. "I think the combination of the neighborhood being a real art haven and having a lot of tenants that make furniture a priority is what's driving it."

Besides the ground-floor retailers, the upper floors host a slew of furniture designers, such as City Joinery, at 70 Washington St.; Tim Hill/Level Collective at 45 Main St.; and 20th Century Modern at 57 Bond St.

"The more the better," said 20th Century Modern's owner Kirk Mrwak, of the onslaught of shops. "Everybody seems to have their own little shop."

Mrwak, who's been in business for about four years selling vintage and antique furniture, said the neighborhood had traditionally hosted showrooms for dealers in Manhattan but didn't attract destination shoppers. While Mrwak has a vested interest

See DUMBO on page 4



ABC Carpet and Home, on Jay Street, is one of many new furniture stores in DUMBO. The Brooklyn Papers / Shanti Liberman

the value of the vision — his company holds the lease with 20th Century, which is expanding its space from 1,000 square feet at 84 Front St. to new digs, totaling 3,000 square feet, at 57 Bond St.

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FAMILY PRACTICE

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

Just when it seemed like the members might finally put aside their differences and start dealing with matters before the board, a longtime member resigned his committee chairmanship claiming irreconcilable differences with Chairwoman Shirley McRae.

Roy Vanasco, a member of the Traffic and Transportation committee and a 34-year veteran of CB2, sent a letter to Borough President Marty Markowitz dated Jan. 6, to inform him of his intent that he was stepping down from his committee post.

Vanasco, who was appointed to the board in 1997 by former Borough President Abe Stark, said in his letter that his resolutions and conferences undertaken by him were failing.

Vanasco was repeatedly blocked by the chairman over the last eight months. Those involved in the dispute failed to agree on a simple letter of introduction to Arlene, Brooklyn Transportation Commissioner Lori Arditto, on CB2 letterhead, was “stymied” waiting for McRae’s approval.

“We’re not going to be some compromise in any organization and some give and take,” Davis said of the meeting. “I guess because we’re not going to be able to work like that.”

Vanasco, who claims not to know the source of their differences, said McRae failed to respond to repeated calls and did not even respond to a simple letter of introduction to Arlene, Brooklyn Transportation Commissioner Lori Arditto, on CB2 letterhead, was “stymied” waiting for McRae’s approval.

Despite infighting and a share of hostility between van

and said she personally contacted Arditto and that the borough commissioner agreed before Vanasco’s committee in December at her request.

“I don’t know what more he wants,” she said. “She was the one who was pushing for him.”

Vanasco will remain on the board, and on the committee. According to the CB2 bylaws, McRae can appoint a replacement chair.

Board members were reluctant to talk about any differences between the two.

McRae, she was decisively re-elected by a vote of 324 with three abstentions, over challenger Ken Diamondstone.

The election seemed to be called to establish the chairman’s authority. Following the vote, McRae and board member Gerry Nutzi made impassioned pleas to put aside differences and focus on the work at hand.

Board members were reluctant to talk about any differences between the two.

CB2 vet's rift with chair worsens

Roy Vanasco BP / File

SLOPE ZONING...

Continued from page 1
The Land Use Committee voted to support the proposal, though one that did not affect the actual proposal.

The committee did punt the zoning issue to the city planning commission, which is currently applicable in parts of Manhattan that are zoned R10, the highest residential density in the city.

“I know the Fifth Avenue Committee is well-intentioned,” said Bevin Grable, president of Brooklyn Civic Council. “They’re fundamentally happy with the proposal as it stands, though one that did not affect the actual proposal.”

The height limiting zoning proposal was passed by a vote of 32-4 with one abstention.

“We’re fundamentally happy with the proposal,” said DeBlasio spokesman. “I like the Fifth Avenue Committee. I understand their mission, but in this situation the imperative is to lower the height of buildings and not to increase them.”

Ultimately, Bonan’s proposed amendment met the

same fate as did the Fifth Avenue Committee’s proposal, though one that did not affect the actual proposal.

Inclusionary zoning is currently only applicable in parts of Manhattan that are zoned R10, the highest residential density in the city.

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Gowanus tunnel still up in air

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn groups have fought for years to have the crumbling Gowanus Expressway replaced with a tunnel.

At a public hearing at Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn Jan. 13, community members gathered to view 13 tunnel plans the state Department of Transportation (DOT) is considering as an alternative to the 5.7-mile elevated highway running from the Battery Tunnel at Hamilton Avenue, along the border of Carroll Gardens and Red Hook, through Sunnyside Park and down to the Bell Parkway and the Ver-

razano-Narrows Bridge.

Once a tunnel alternative plan is selected, its cost and effectiveness will be compared to a renovation of the expressway, which would cost around \$400 million.

More than a decade ago, DOT announced that the elevated highway under Robert Moses' reign as head of the bridge and tunnel authority — required a major overhaul. Since that time, community groups have fought to have a more feasible alternative to replace the expressway. When those groups believed their concerns were being brushed aside, in 1997 sued the state Department of Transportation and Federal Highways Administration.

In January, the state's federal and state agencies settled the suit and awarded the community with \$375,000 to hire a consultant to represent them in further negotiations.

As part of the settlement, the parties involved agreed to create the Gowanus Holders Group (GCHG), to work with the DOT on creation of a tunnel alternative plan.

An additional \$18 million in funding was earmarked by Rep. Jerry Nadler, Nydia Velazquez and Eliot Engel for the alternative studies.

In March, the groups hired a consulting team consisting of former DOT engineer Harold McDonald, Environmental PC; Wells and Associates LLC; and the Regional Plan Association, which first developed the idea of replacing the elevated highway with a tunnel.

The first GCHG community meeting was held in Sunset Park last February. Since then, the group has hosted forums in several other neighborhoods in-

cluding Carroll Gardens and Brooklyn Heights. The next one will be held in Red Hook.

Mathy Stanislaus, a member of the technical advisory committee, said the neighborhood have the same complaints about the Gowanus and would like to see it tucked away underground.

Despite the support of the elevated roadway, community members worry about the traffic and the bisecting of communities caused by the roadway.

"Are we going to lose Shore Parkway?" one community member asked after a plan was presented that would turn the highway into a two-way road.

Longtime Gowanus activist Buddy Scotto said he hoped the DOT wanted to renovate the expressway. "What happens to traffic during the construction?" Scotto asked, concerned that renovation would clog local streets with traffic from the Ver-

razano-Narrows Bridge.

Stanislaus explained that with new tunnel-boring technology, a tunnel could be built under another avenue, or even underwater, allowing traffic to move along the current structure until after the tunnel was completed.

While most agreed that a tunnel was the way to go, everybody had their questions. "How were they going to pay for it?"

"Where are we going to get the money?" asked Mary Dunnigan, president of the Victory Block Association. Some members largely live near the Gowanus' connection to the Verrazano bridge.

The proposed proposals argue that while initial costs of repairing the existing expressway might be less than building a tunnel, the maintenance costs would be less since a tunnel requires fewer repairs.



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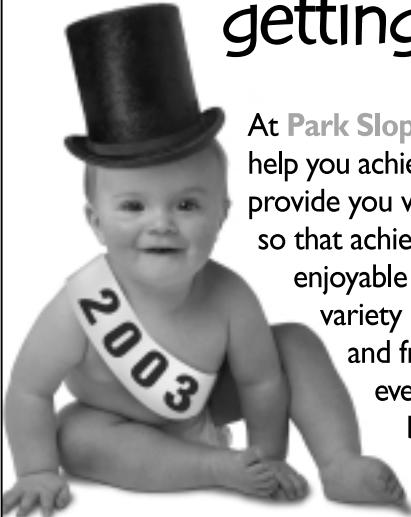
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MAYOR...

Continued from page 1
ents of children attending that local school may serve," leaving them, he said, "protected from being compromised by local officials as has happened every year."

In Brooklyn, his proposal was met with a mixture of partial approval and caution.

"There is a lot to like about the mayor's speech this morning," said Bill DeBlasio, former member of Community School Board 15, which includes Park Slope, Red Hook, Sunset Park, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Kensington.

DeBlasio, however, ex-

pressed concern that decisions regarding curriculum would be made at Tweed Courthouse rather than at the local level.

"Parents need to have a seat at the table where there are new laws last year that significantly restricted control of New York City schools. The mayor, in effect, is giving the city the responsibility for the city's schools back into the hands of the mayor for the first time since 1969."

In addition to addressing the issue of school autonomy, the bill, introduced by State Senator Bill Perkins, whose two children attend public school in Brooklyn, "not only at their schools but also where regional policy and budget decisions are made."

DeBlasio, who represents

District 21, which includes Bensonhurst, Coney Island and Brighton Beach, said she was waiting on "greater knowledge of what type of curriculum and how it's going to be implemented," before passing judgement

on the plan.

"We are No. 1 district in Brooklyn, always put children first," she said. "Our schools are achieving, so we are certainly for anything that makes instruction the core."

On Jan. 9, the City Council's education committee, of which DeBlasio and Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky are members, passed a resolution that school boards be replaced with nine-member "Parent and Community School Councils," each consisting of five members appointed by the applicable city council members and four by the borough president.

The councils would serve much the same function school boards had in their members' districts, according to DeBlasio.

DeBlasio will speak on behalf of the idea before the State Task Force on School Governance, which will hear testimony from parents, educators, elected officials and residents,

on the plan.

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on the abolition of community school boards and the formation of a Polytechnic University in Downtown Brooklyn.

It will be the last public hearing before the task force makes its recommendations to Gov. George Pataki and the Legislature.

There will doubtless be many who will make a last stand on behalf of the school boards, but the majority have been school boards that worked, like ours."

School Board 21 President Clinton Santa Maria called the city's plan to restructure school boards "astounding."

"They're putting the cart before the horse," said Santa Maria, who blamed the media as much as he blamed Bay

Ridge-Gravesend Assemblywoman Adele Cohen, who introduced legislation for the city's push to abolish the school boards.

"The press has already had a field day with the school boards, so I think there have been school boards that worked, like ours."

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President Edward Rodriguez, who is still a member of the Assembly, with those "Astounding" words.

Bloomberg added: "Each will be run by a single regional operations manager."

Bloomberg estimated the initial use of classroom centers would create at least 8,000 new classroom seats and said class sizes would be reduced from 33 students to 28.

The State Task Force on School Governance Reform, a committee of 20 state Senators and Assemblmen formed last summer, is responsible for leading public hearings and presenting a list of recommendations on Feb. 15 to replace the system of community representation and parental input on local school issues currently in place.

P'Park rape arrest

The Brooklyn Papers

A homeless man lured a teenager into Prospect Park over the weekend and sexually assaulted her, according to police.

The alleged assailant, Rodney Flory, 43, was taken into custody Saturday, shortly after the alleged rape and assault where he met his 19-year-old victim, police said.

Flory allegedly approached the girl at fast food restaurant on Empire Boulevard late Friday night and convinced her to accompany him into the park. Police said he took her to a location near where he known as a place where he Bridge and raped her. The New York Post cited police sources as

saying that he would not let the girl go and kept her near him, raping her two more times in the course of the night.

Early the next morning, at around 4:30 a.m., she escaped his custody and went to the police, Flory at Empire Boulevard and Flatbush Avenue during a search of the area.

Flory was arrested by police.

Citing the attack, along with other recent sexual assaults, in Crown Heights and Queens, activists have begun to call for strict sexual measures in city parks.

Officers from Park Slope's Prospect Park at night. — *Gallahue*

DUMBO...

Continued from page 1
in seeing that change, he thinks it may take a little more time.
"It hasn't fit yet," he said.
"It hasn't really become a real place."

Although its genesis is difficult to pinpoint, an idea has been floating around the furniture expo, not unlike the DUMBO Art Under the Bridge Festival, in which upper-level artists open their studios to aficionados for a weekend.

While Walker was unable to say who came up with the idea, it was one he was familiar with and embraced.

"There are certainly lots of models for it," he said. "We would love to see something like that happen."

The same prosperity has not rubbed off on many of the craftspeople in the neighborhood.

With the area's booming residential and commercial development, some of those that helped establish DUMBO as an artist enclave have fallen victim to an economic natural selection. One former DUMBO resident, a furniture dealer, who asked that his name not be used, consistently saw his rent escalate \$200 to

\$250 monthly and finally sought new digs in Red Hook.

He said the stores that have established reputations and a strong customer base stand a chance at surviving and maintaining their market share.

"There's a lot of artisans still over there," he said. "But most guys are looking for cheaper space."

Indy to party

The new branch of the Community Bank branch at 40 Washington St. will have its grand opening Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The regular bank hours will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. There will be two 24-hour ATMs at the branch. The bank is the first in DUMBO.

YASSKY...

Continued from page 1

commerce have consistently been frustrated by city workers who believe they can only be utilized as a means of free parking, taking spot that would otherwise be occupied by shoppers.

Yassky proposed to use those permits for parking to work to work." Yassky told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "But a lot of those employees abuse them. Because the company and you have police officers, correction officers and assistance district attorneys that have to appear in court by driving to downtown Brooklyn ... some of [the parking] is legitimate, some is not."

"I know that Councilman Yassky is addressing it," said Sandy Balboza, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association (AABA). "It hurts the merchants here and it hurts business."

Charging that some of the permits are actually fake, Yassky asked city to conduct an audit of parking permits issued to government employees and reduce that number by 25 percent, dedicate police to enforce permits and tow away vehicles that violate permits and provide dedicated off-street parking to government employees on official business.

As a pilot resident parking

permit program, Yassky suggested emulating programs in Washington, D.C., which permit drivers to park on streets to about two hours, except for cars bearing dental permits.

Additionally, Yassky said, "I would like to help all the neighborhoods, not just Concord Village," said Jon Quint, a resident of Concord Village and a member of Community Board 2. "Because part of the plan would benefit everyone on Atlantic Avenue from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The existing restriction turns the curbside lane into a traffic lane during rush hour to attract more people to the peak swell of motorists."

Merchants on Atlantic Avenue have fought to have the parking restriction removed for years, saying that the restrictions were causing even more along, creating a dangerous condition next to the curb, and that the lack of parking was problematic.

Another proposal that Yassky called on the city to implement was a dedicated pedestrian crossing north of Tillary Street, which had been a contentious matter during the city's Department of Transportation's traffic-calming meetings, according to Long Beach Hall, a resident of Concord Village, who aggressively sought to have a traffic light about 600 feet north of Tillary Street and a dedicated crosswalk about 500 feet to the intersection, included in the plan. Bruckbill also pushed for a bicycle ramp to keep the cars and bicycles from colliding at

the intersection of Tillary and Adams streets.

Yassky's suggestion broadly seeks "an additional crossing on Adams Street between Tillary Street and the Brooklyn Bridge so that the thousands of residents of Concord Village can cross safely to Brooklyn Heights."

"It would really help all the neighborhoods, not just Concord Village," said Jon Quint, a resident of Concord Village and a member of Community Board 2. "Because part of the plan would benefit everyone on Atlantic Avenue from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The existing restriction turns the curbside lane into a traffic lane during rush hour to attract more people to the peak swell of motorists."

Yassky did not attach a deadline to his proposals, or even a percentage that he hoped to accomplish at year's end, but said some ideas, such as the parking permit pilot program, stricter enforcement of government parking permits and a revision of Sunday metered parking, "we could do immediately."

Others, he acknowledged, may take longer.

Among the less urgent but more ambitious proposals in the works is a revised proposal to expand ferry service to downtown Brooklyn.

Last year, Yassky, who also chairs the council's Select Committee on Transportation, hearings to suggest expanded ferry service between the boroughs, proposing new routes between Brooklyn Heights, Greenpoint, Far Rockaway in

Queens, and Manhattan as well as maintaining a temporary route from Sunset Park to Lower Manhattan.

The proposal enjoyed the support of the city's Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall, and Andrew Alper, president of the city's Economic Development Corporation. However, it was eventually torpedoed by Bloomberg in his executive budget.

Yassky's revised plan suggests developing commuter lines between John F. Kennedy Airport and either the Brooklyn Army Terminal or Fulton Ferry Landing or Atlantic Avenue, with a shuttle to the Metrotech and other downtown stops.

For future development on the way, he hopes the proposal will reach a more receptive ear.

Yassky also plans currently in the works by Community Board 2, to develop a bus route between subway stations and the various plazas and the Atlantic Center, at 316 Atlantic Ave., in Brooklyn.

While the administration continues to evaluate the proposals, Yassky is hoping the mayor's affinity for downtown Brooklyn as the city's third major business hub carries

forward his wish list.

Bloomberg has already focused on three strips — Livingston Street, the Flatbush Avenue Extension and Willets Point Street — as potential corridors of commercial, retail or residential activity. He allocated \$750,000 last summer towards a \$1.25 million Environmental Services State Project (ES) on rezoning and manufacturing zones, increasing building capacity and creating height restrictions on residential strips.

The administration has

proposed to develop

downtown Brooklyn, "but the part of the Boerum Hill Association and AABA to relocate the Atlantic Transitional Center, at 316 Atlantic Ave., cutting the repeated incidents of violence that have been traced back to the center over the past several years."

He also suggested studying the possibility of making Schenectady Avenue a one-way between Smith Street and Flatbush Avenue to draw traffic off residential streets, and including downtown Brooklyn in Bloomberg's "Open the Silent Night" project, permitting with various methods of enforcement on noise violations — which the mayor launched last October.

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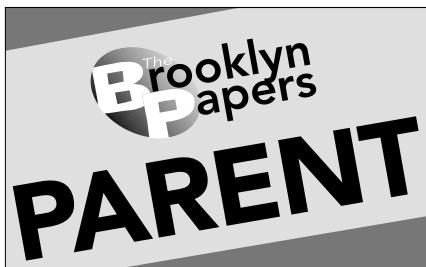
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Tips on keeping choppers clean



Previewing Catholic Schools Week

The Brooklyn Papers

With Catholic Schools Week coming up later this month, here is information about some of Brooklyn's finest institutions:

St. Charles Borromeo

Established in 1850, this co-educational school offers development of Christian Values and academic challenge for Pre-K through 12th grade students who are accredited by the Middle States Association.

The philosophy is to develop to the fullest extent the individual physical and mental abilities of each child, and to help students learn all the goals for future success. The curriculum follows all New York State and diocesan mandates. The school offers courses in reading, language arts, math, social studies, science, health, foreign language, art, music and phys ed.

St. Charles Borromeo is located at 23 Sidney Pl. in Brooklyn Heights; (718) 596-1362.

St. Saviour

Established in 1917 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Saviour's provides young women with a four year college preparatory program. The school achieved nation-

al recognition in 1999 as an "outstanding school" on the list of the top 96 high schools across the United States, in a research project by US News and World Report.

The student-to-teacher ratio is 10-to-1, and graduates are routinely accepted at top colleges.

St. Saviour's mission is to provide a well-rounded education supporting the spiritual potential of its 350 students of diverse religious backgrounds and cultures. The value-rich environment enables the students to grow and enables them to positively impact our world. Many sports, clubs and religious studies programs are available, as are AP and college level courses.

St. Saviour's is located at 588 Sixth St. in Park Slope; (718) 768-4406; www.stssaviour.org

Xaverian

This all-male college preparatory school has been providing the highest quality education for teenage boys for over 40 years.

Xaverian is one of a handful of high schools on the east coast to offer the International Baccalaureate Degree Program. Honors, college level and advanced placement courses are offered as well. The school also has the largest athletic and extracurricular program in the city, and an extremely success-

ful music program. Students with special needs may contact the REACH program director at ext. 142.

Ninety-eight percent of Xaverian graduates go on to the first college of their choice, generating more than \$10 million in scholarship money.

Xaverian High School is located at 7100 Shore Road in Bay Ridge; (718) 836-7100; www.xaverian.org

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Q: "My toddler cries or screams each time I try to brush his teeth. What has worked for others?" — a mother.

A: Even when your child pitches a fit, it's best to give in to his demands about having his teeth brushed. The job has been done.

Toddlers tend to fuss until about age 3, says Khen Haugseth, a pediatric dentist. Then they become more compliant but still need supervision while brushing until age 7 or 8.

"Some parents don't realize it, but tooth brushing is a skill the child can't do an adequate job," she says. "No matter what fit the kids pitch, the parent has to do it."

To brush through the "no-no" toddler phase, try to make brushing fun and give your child a bit of control. One strategy: Let your child brush his teeth while you've done a thorough cleaning.

• To make brushing less of a chore, one mother taps into her son's love of dinosaurs, giving him a toothbrush shaped like T-Rex teeth.

• Encourage the help of a lion and other animals in a pop-up book for preschoolers, "Brush Your Teeth Please" (Dial, \$16.99, 1993) by Leslie McGuire.

• Let your child watch you as you brush your teeth and floss, then let him see himself in the mirror as you clean his teeth.

• Put up a tooth-brushing chart, such as one at www.ra-

ritudentist.com, and give small rewards for cooperation.

• Be creative. Turn a familiar tune such as "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" into your child's personal tooth-brushing song.

The brushing approach Haugseth recommends: Place your wiggly toddler across your lap and cradle his head against your chest. Brush his teeth with a soft toothbrush. Brush his tongue, then floss. If necessary, enlist a spouse or sibling to hold your child's hands.

• Once you have finished, pat the child's nose or press-size amount of toothpaste on the toothbrush and coach your child as he brushes in the mirror." Haugseth suggests.

It's important to supervise brush routine as your child uses, she says. Kids tend to dislike minty flavors but like to glob on artificially sweetened brands.

More than the recommended pea-sized amount of toothpaste makes too much foam

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

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It's important to supervise brush routine as your child uses, she says. Kids tend to dislike minty flavors but like to glob on artificially sweetened brands.

More than the recommended pea-sized amount of toothpaste makes too much foam

and may increase the amount sputtered.

If a child hasn't learned to spit out toothpaste, he's not ready to use it because over time he may swallow too much fluoride, which can cause dental problems for the permanent teeth.

Haugseth prefers to start seeing her patients at age 1, mainly to teach parents about how to brush and floss. She also tries to never despair and what to look for as the child develops.

Can you help?

"Our grandkids live an hour away from us. Our visits are rushed. My son and his wife never want to fudge their children's teeth. They always say they rush home after a two-hour visit to get the girls to bed. Even my granddaughter comes in not enough time to brush her teeth," Haugseth says.

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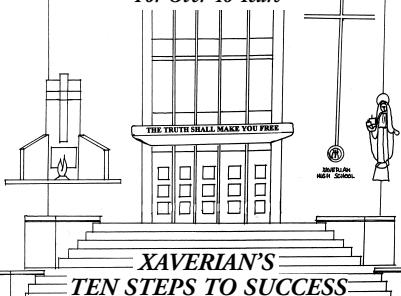
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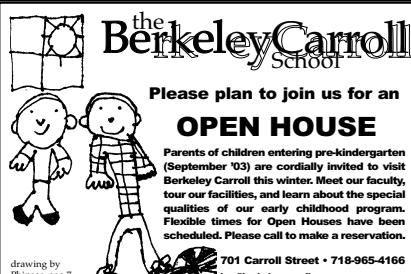
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Windsor Terrace

Millman dumps Dem leadership role

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Paper

Amid all the financial, judicial and criminal controversies swirling around the Democratic Party in Brooklyn, the chairwoman and treasurer of the party's leadership body both quietly resigned.

Assemblywoman Joan Millman announced she will abdicate her post as chairwoman of the Kings County Democratic Committee while Assembly Speaker, the treasurer, relinquished his sole monthly salary.

Both Millman said she has left the party's top committee and will spend more time with the constituents in her redrawn Brooklyn district, which includes parts of Park Slope, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, her resignation comes at a distinct time in the party's history.

Wracked by internal disputes over party selection of judges, fiscal improprieties, lost elections and charges of patronage, the party has been the subject of intense media scrutiny.

"I have to take both Mr. Gary and Assemblywoman Millman at their face value for what their reason are," Assembly Speaker, who has distanced himself from Millman's 52nd Assembly District. "But one can't help but think there is some connection to all the problems the Kings Com-

mittee has had over the years."

Millman said she asked to be relieved of her position last October, but was asked to remain. She agreed and did not formally make her intentions known until recently.

"I was not doing it because there's something else going on," she said. "It's a personal decision. I don't really need to do it at all. My responsibility is to Albany, so I'm going to cut out at least one meeting a month isn't a bad thing."

Millman said she recently requested a leave of absence from her congressional campaign, such as the Transportation Committee, to deal with downtown Brooklyn traffic problems, and is in the process of organizing a rally in support of her own health care in women's prisons as part of her position as chairwoman of the Assembly's Women's Health Task Force.

She explained that her resignation was influenced by the party's recent succession of fiascos.

The speaker of the Kings County Democratic Committee's executive committee, Assemblywoman Clarence Norman, has come under heavy scrutiny for failing to report a \$15,000 loan between



Joan Millman BP / File photo

the county committee and his campaign re-election committee, a year in which he wasn't even on the ballot.

There was also frustration that his political club, the Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights Club in Crown Heights, received \$245,000 from former Public Advocate Mark Green's campaign for mayor, even though little if any of that money went to the club.

The city's Campaign Finance Board is auditing candidates in the 2001 races to see if they received all the money that was received from the county committee.

Within party ranks, there has also been criticism of the party over county's method for selecting candidates to the bench.

The party has subdivided qualified judges in the past that had political differences with elect-

ed officials, and district leaders have complained about the backdoor workings of the party's process of selecting judicial candidates.

From my point of view there is an unhealthy secrecy to how the committee conducts its business," Fleischman said.

Cummins, candidate for the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, requested an application from the Kings County Democratic Committee to the Brooklyn and Staten Island county parties. Many district leaders and judicial delegates supported Cummins, however, don't know who is on the screening committee.

"There's a secret judicial screening panel that no one knows about," Fleischman said. "It's obscene."

Subsequently, Joanne Seminatore, female director, headed for the 60th Precinct Assembly and a candidate for the Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights City Council seat vacated by Mary Griswold. She proposed a partnership geared toward limiting the pull of political sway in the process and curtailing the amount of money a receiver can collect.

Gary did not return calls for comment.

"Tom moved his practice out of Brooklyn and it was somewhat cumbersome to attend the meetings," Fleischman said in explaining Gary's resignation.

Millman's position gave her significant oversight over the party's activities, said Feldman, Norman's post makes him the state's top-ranking officer.

Millman's resignation will likely be made official at the end of this month or the beginning of February, at the next Kings County Democratic Committee meeting, Feldman said.

Her resignation followed the departure of Gary, who stepped down in October.

It was a letter from Gary, and his law office, Arnold Levine, that revealed a pattern of patronage and cronyism led by the Brooklyn Democrats in the borough.

In December 1999, Ludwig and Gary wrote a letter to the Kings County Democratic Committee's law committee,

which both attorneys were members, complaining that they had been removed as counsel on a lucrative receivership by a party outsider, despite their loyalty to the county.

The letter sparked an investigation, which revealed that between 1995 and 1999, an attorney named Mark Green, in which a swastika was burned into the ceiling with "Kill the Jews" scrawled on a wall.

The police did not believe there was a link between the incidents.

Neither the police nor the working Kensington home was singled out and officers were hesitant to label it a bias crime as yet.

"We have a diverse, amazing fabric in the area," said Inspector Stephen McAllister, command officer of the 66th Precinct. Fortunately, we haven't had any."

McAllister said the tags would be coming to the woman whose house was vandalized.

"I think it neighborhood here," he said. "Somebody lives here. There's Muslims, there's Catholics, there's Jews, and we live everyday together."

GRAFFITI...

Continued from page 1

The incident was even more troublesome after word came of another incident, in Flatlands, Brooklyn, in which a swastika was burned into the ceiling with "Kill the Jews" scrawled on a wall.

The police did not believe there was a link between the incidents.

"We do have something so amazing and so special," said McAllister.

"Unfortunately, when you have such a diverse, amazing fabric, it can be torn quickly also."

"I think it neighborhood here," he said. "Somebody lives here. There's Muslims, there's Catholics, there's Jews, and we live everyday together."

GOV

Continued from page 1

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Supporters of the working waterfront are concerned that the study will jeopardize maritime industries, while those in favor of housing actively support the conversion of the now active shipping piers to apartments and open space.



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husband, Carl Brown.

The study, which is taking place in New York City, nationwide, involves a surgical procedure to determine the effects of Alzheimer's disease by draining the brain of unhealthy toxins.

During the procedure, a catheter is threaded from the brain to the abdomen. The tube then connects to a pump that discharges the fluid through the catheter into the abdomen. Most patients return home the day following the procedure.

"The procedure is very encouraging," said Enrico Cardoso, MD, neurosurgeon and principal investigator at New York Methodist Hospital.

The Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Study at New York Methodist Hospital seeks men and women, like Mrs. Brown, who are in the early or middle stage of Alzheimer's disease and who are otherwise good health, to participate in the study. Participants will receive the experimental treatment at no cost.

Participants are placed into a

control group or a test group. While participants in both groups undergo the medical procedure, only the test group receive a functioning shunt.

"Every study which is approved by the Food and Drug Administration must have a control group in order to make sure that the effects of the procedure are not psychological. No one but the neurosurgeon who performs the shunt will know which patient received a functioning shunt and which patient received a placebo," explained Dr. Cardoso.

However, nine months into the eighteen-month study, members of the control group will be offered an open shunt. This procedure is painless and may be performed under local anesthesia.

Mr. Brown is telling everyone he knows about the study. Families like the Browns are leaders in the fight against Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Cardoso.

For more information about participation in the Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Study, call toll free 1-888-4MY-MIND or 1-888-469-6462.

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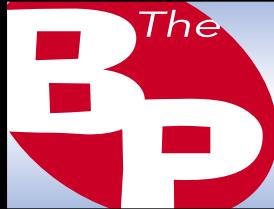
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HOME IMPROVEMENT



This page is a collage of various local service advertisements from Brooklyn Papers. It includes sections for Architects, Construction, Exterminators, Movers (Licensed), Bathrooms, Interior Design, Handyman, Electricians, Landscaping/Gardening, Locksmiths, Painting, Paint Removal, Roofing, Stairs, Tree Services, Plastering, Professional Painting, Contracting, Custom Woodworking, Floor Maintenance, Contractors, Exterminators, Painting, Plastering, Interiors, Restoration, Roofing, and Plaster Restoration.



The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • January 20, 2003

INSIDE

DINING

PAGE GO 2
Hill Diner has good food for cheap

NIGHTLIFE

PAGE GO 3
Playwrights and cocktails at Low

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2

TRIBUTE

MLK at BAM

Commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the 17th annual "Come Share the Dream" candlelight vigil at 20 at 11:30 am at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House, at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100]. The free event is presented by Brooklyn President Marty Markowitz, BAM and Medgar Evers College.

The keynote address will be delivered by attorney Fred D. Gray (pictured), president of the Alabama State Bar Association and author of the book *A Ride to Justice* (River City, 1998).

Gray defended Rosa Parks (who refused to give up her seat to a white man on a city bus), King and the Montgomery bus boycott participants in the landmark 1950s U.S. Supreme Court segment. Gray also represented the victims — more than 600 black men — of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment in the 1970s.

Jazz vocalist Lizz Wright will perform with Voices from the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. Free screenings of Julie Dash's "The Rosa Parks Story" (2002), starring Angela Bassett, will follow at the BAM Rose Cinemas. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

THEATER

'Bird' sings

Heights Players production of 'Sweet Bird of Youth' a triumph

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

The tormented world of Tennessee Williams is not easy to reproduce on stage. It takes acting and direction often beyond the scope of community theater. So it is with special enthusiasm that this reviewer recommends the Heights Players' "Sweet Bird of Youth."

The play is directed by Robert J. Weinstein ("A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Romeo and Juliet," "The Desperate Hours").

Smith, as Alexandra Del Lago, the has-been movie star masquerading as Princess Katerina, and Christopher Johnson, in his Heights Players debut as Chance Wayne, the would-be gigolo who supplies Del Lago with hashish and sex in the hope that she will give him the boost he needs to rise to movie stardom.

The Broadway production, which opened in 1959 at the Martin Beck Theatre, was directed by Eli Wallach and starred Geraldine Page and Paul Newman. (The 1962 film also starred Page and Newman in a censored, some say cast-trimmed, adaptation.) The 1959 production probably set the standard for all subsequent interpretations, but even with such formidable footprints to follow, Johnson and Smith do not stumble.

Johnson is sexy in a dissipated and desperate way. He's also alternately sensitive, and sadistic, and capable of areckless, impulsive act. He is not better.

Smith deftly creates maelstroms and conveys emotional swings with the ease and artistry of a true professional. She's divinely haughty and brutally depraved but not beyond同情.

Alexandra Williams, in her own dialogue, claims the play is about the "energy time in us all;" one suggests, "Sweet Bird of Youth" is more about the enemy that is ourselves within us all — sexual rapacity and sexual repression, the desire for power and money, and self-delusion.

All these themes are present in "Sweet Bird of Youth." But Finley, who appears on stage every minute he's on stage (every time he appears) is a corrupt politician who has destroyed the romance between Chance and his daughter, Heavenly (the convincing Dana Binnison) because he wants his daughter to marry someone whose connections will advance his political career. After Chance infects Heavenly with syphilis, Finley orders her to leave town. But Chance is determined to wrest Heavenly from her father's grip.

At the same time, Boss Finley is attempting to retain control of his fiefdom despite rumors of his daughter's fall from grace. Finley, who claims he came down from the red clay hills on some kind of a mission, returns to the same theme he had when he first came to town: the fight against black men who are threatening white manhood. As Chance and Finley struggle for Heavenly's soul, Finley and a lone Heckler (Gabriel Edelman) struggle for the soul of the south.

This production shines with outstanding performances in the supporting roles — Marilyn Beck as Nannie, the kind-hearted aunt who cautions Chance to leave town before he gets himself either killed or castrated; Keisha Alfred as Miss Lucy, Boss Finley's saucy and wise mistress; and Jamie Wollar as Tom Finley Jr., the Boss's son.

It also sports the beautiful and evocative sets of Gerry Newman, original music by Audiomind and fight scenes that

Susan Smith as Princess Kosmonopolis.

See SWEET on page GO 4

Guts & Glory

Tales of Mughal hero on display at Brooklyn Museum

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers



Riots of color: (Top) "The Adventures of Hamza," on display at the Brooklyn Museum, features hand-painted miniatures from this detail from "Shahzadha Leeda Hamza to Prison and Tu Must Recognize the Amir from His Roots in the Caravanserai of Baba Junayd" above. (Hamza is the figure at left, in chains). (Inset) A painting of Iraj, a detail from "Bad-Uzzaman Fights Iraj to a Draw."

ART

The Adventures of Hamza will be on display at the Brooklyn Museum of Art (200 Eastern Parkway) through Jan. 26. Admission is \$6, \$3 older adults and students, \$3 children under 12 accompanied by an adult.

On Jan. 26 at 3 pm, members of the Brooklyn Museum Orchestra will perform music from Persia to Kashmir, heard through Persian poems, including right over the concert, which includes admission and a gallery talk on the exhibit at 2 pm. Call (718) 638-5539 or go online for advance at the admissions desk, or by calling (718) 638-5539.

For more information about "The Adventures of Hamza," call (718) 638-5000.

And the bloodbath! Battles take place in onion-domed castles, in lavish, lush gardens and on ships with dragons' heads carved on their prows. The soldiers go to battle on an elaborately attired array of battlefields, including lions, tigers, wolves, elephants and horses.

Hamza's teeming armies go to war with swords raised high. The bloody violence and gruesome dismemberment on the battlefield is graphically represented in several scenes.

On Jan. 26, at 3 pm, members of the Brooklyn Museum Orchestra will perform music from Persia to Kashmir, heard through Persian poems, including right over the concert, which includes admission and a gallery talk on the exhibit at 2 pm. Call (718) 638-5539 or go online for advance at the admissions desk, or by calling (718) 638-5539.

The illustrations for the Hamza epic can be appreciated on two levels: for the story itself, for which these 2-foot-tall paintings were meant to be displayed vertically; and for the intricate patterns and motifs that make up the entire scene (the museum translates the text next to each panel) and for the skilled craftsmanship, right down to the mesmerizing miniature detailing of intricate patterns and lavish ornamentation on buildings, caravans and clothing.

New York Times critic Roberta Smith described these paintings, with their varying perspectives and crowded compositions, as being "dense as collage."

"The Adventures of Hamza" is a spectacle of color, of movement, of exciting action and adventure, and painterly prowess, befitting an emperor, especially a young emperor who enjoys a good yarn.

The illustrations for the Hamza epic can be appreciated on two levels: for the story itself, for which these 2-foot-tall paintings were meant to be displayed vertically; and for the intricate patterns and motifs that make up the entire scene (the museum translates the text next to each panel) and for the skilled craftsmanship, right down to the mesmerizing miniature detailing of intricate patterns and lavish ornamentation on buildings, caravans and clothing.

Even Khorshid-Kharana, a female spy, or ayar, helps the good guys by beheading the spy Kajlast. While for the most part, the female figures in the paintings are literally in the periphery of the action, in this painting (attributed to artists Basma and Mukhisi), the woman is painted into the peeling coming off a banana.

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See HAMZA on page GO 4

The foreground, her crimson red skirt drawing the viewer's attention. The woman grimly holds by the hair the head of Kajlast and in her other hand, a small knife.

Khorshid-Kharana's secret is made more apparent by the artist pairing her against a backdrop of leafy green trees and grass, rather than the usual riot of colorful soldiers and intricately patterned textiles. Her victim's headless corpse lies uncrossed, motionless, sprawled in the lower right-hand corner, with his skin peeled back.

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New York Times critic Roberta Smith described these paintings, with their varying perspectives and crowded compositions, as being "dense as collage."

"The Adventures of Hamza" is a spectacle of color, of movement, of exciting action and adventure, and painterly prowess, befitting an emperor, especially a young emperor who enjoys a good yarn.

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See HAMZA on page GO 4

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Offbeat & on target

New Low bar gets high marks for feast of literary talent

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

What do you do if you own a tiny, cramped DUMBO restaurant that has little room to spare in the basement? The owners of Low have answered that question by creating an intimate underground lounge, appropriately named Low, offering nourishment for the soul.

Low has a renovated industrial look produced by exposed bricks, beams and the water main of the building. Overall, a web of lights creates the illusion of open sky. Patrons drink and eat at even tables and booths set up at benches by low tables and bar stools by high tables.

The lounge has a full-service bar that features cocktails and domestic and imported beers. And what it offers is a shorter menu with snacks such as sweet and spicy beef, *pinchos de pollo con queso*, bacon and scallops with Catalan sauce of roasted tomato and almonds) and yogurt with sliced Japanese eggplant with sake-miso glaze. Patrons who want more substantial fare can order from Kice's restaurant menu.

What makes Low really special is its entertainment value. On Wednesdays, the lounge presents a variety show with burlesque, magic and DJs who spin old blues, jazz, boogaloo and country. Fridays and some Saturdays, the lounge has live music. And Thurs-

days, Low presents a reading series, "Playwrights in (other) Words," featuring short, comic pieces.

The manager and curator of programming is Argentine young woman whose mother works behind-the-scenes at the Wooster Group, which counts among its founding members Willem Dafoe and Spalding Gray.

Founded in 1975 under the direction of Elizabeth LeCompte, the Wooster Group has been recognized as one of the most politically and culturally radical theaters in the world. The group also produces films and videos. The Wooster Group is no stranger to DUMBO, having brought "To You the Birds!" featuring Dafoe and Frances McDormand, to St. Ann's Warehouse at 38 Water St. It was the Wooster Group's first production ever.

Low's "Playwrights in (other) Words" continues on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. with Jorge Ignacio Cortinas, on Jan. 23 with a staged reading of his work "A Reading." Strahs' work is read by Adam Rapp on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.; and a reading of his work "A Reading" follows. Low is located below the restaurant Rico at 81 Washington Ave., between Court and Fulton Streets. For more information, call (718) 222-569 or visit www.nycn.com/lown/theWeb.

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has been working on a theatrical series, "How to Act" (performed in Williamsburg) and "The Art of Fiction," and "Jane Doe," named after an actress.

"[The three plays] are about theater, the last refuge of scoundrels," said Strahs. "When playwrights run out of things to say they write about theater."

Sneak peek: On Jan. 9, playwright James Strahs regales the patrons of the bar-lounge Low in DUMBO with a reading of his latest work-in-progress, "Open Call."

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

After only a few weeks' work, however, a reading of Strahs' "Open Call," a play about what actors might say to each other while waiting to audition, ran into a snag. "I'm not sure," Strahs said, "like the opportunity of a reading, because it allows you to work it up. At a reading you can see what doesn't work."

Strahs' association with the Wooster Group dates back to 1992, when he was invited to read his work-in-progress "Open Call" at the Wooster Group's "North Atlantic."

More recently, Strahs has been working on a theatrical series, "How to Act" (performed in Williamsburg) and "The Art of Fiction," and "Jane Doe," named after an actress.

"[The three plays] are about theater, the last refuge of scoundrels," said Strahs. "When playwrights run out of things to say they write about theater."

On Jan. 16, Jorge Ignacio Cortinas presents a new-work-in-progress titled "The Polished Jungle." Add in an award-winning Hispanic writer whose plays have been workshoped at INTAR, South Coast Repertory, the Magic New World Theater and the Arena; and have been produced by the likes of the continual cavalcade of the Wooster Group.

Certainly Low's full house of more than 30 enjoyed Strahs' readings as well as the continual cavalcade of the Wooster Group.

For Smart, the formula that keeps Low vibrant is simple: "Classic cocktail menu and great musical service."

Add in a generous dash of off-beat and on-beat entertainment, and it's easy to see why after a mere six months, it seems Low has already become a hot spot for a young, spirited and sophisticated crowd.

Campo Santo and Intersections for the Arts.

Aaron Landsman will present a staged reading of "Family Establishment" in his home Jan. 23. "Family Establishment" tells the stories of various strangers — a lawyer's experience with jelly-candy, a bartender's secret to making antipasto ball soup, and a boy's favorite game of chess in the park — illustrating the disappearing histories of neighborhoods and the possibility of intimacy among strangers. Landsman's work has appeared at PS 122, HERE, Chashama, Movement Research and Dixon Place, which is presenting the staging at Low.

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Eighth Street and Surf Avenue, (718) 265-1550.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "The Puppet Show," 10 a.m. to 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. See Sat.

OTHER

MEETING: Brooklyn Chapter of the National Council of Clinical Social Workers, 10 a.m. Free for members. 297 Douglass St., Brooklyn, 718-631-4441.

RECEPTION: Metaphor Contemporary Art Gallery presents "The Last Days of the Century," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Paper and made of paper, 1 to 3 p.m. See Sat.

BEDLY DANCING: Learn the moves, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brooklyn Center for Community Arts, 522A Court St. (718) 854-9389.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Bartók's Wooden Toys," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

ODD SUNDAY: Museum of the Americas presents "Hours of Intercative Sculpture." Also, The Latin American Music Institute instrument demonstration, is demonstrated. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. 3rd floor, 919 Madison Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See Sat.

Movies: Brooklyn: The Museum of the Moving Image presents "The Rose Parks Story" (2002), 8 p.m. 135th Street and Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100. Free.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN: "The King, Jr. Day with spirituality by the Great Day Chorale and a performance by the Brooklyn Chorus. Meets Save Some Youth

Emerson, \$3, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7332.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents youth dance troupe from Bedford-Stuyvesant, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

Theater: 541, 6 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

BELLY DANCING: Learn the moves, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Brooklyn Center for Community Arts, 522A Court St. (718) 854-9389.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Bartók's Wooden Toys," 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

ROE V WADE: National Organization for Women, Brooklyn Chapter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discussion of the legal right to abortion in the U.S. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. State Senator Mary Glickman, 9002 Third Ave. (718) 951-7441.

OPERA: Brooklyn: Opera Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst Community Emergency Response Team, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See Sat.

BRUTUS: experimental theater with American Theater Nexus, 10 a.m., \$10, students, \$7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

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BARLOW DANCE: Federation of Italian American Organizations presents "Barlow's Dance," 6 p.m. Advanced dancer instruction, 7 p.m. Intermediate, 8 p.m. Beginner. 7 p.m. See Sat.

BALLROOM DANCE: Federation of Italian American Organizations presents "Barlow's Dance," 6 p.m. Advanced dancer instruction, 7 p.m. Intermediate, 8 p.m. Beginner. 7 p.m. See Sat.

MEDITATION: Experience sahaja yoga meditation. Workshop for adults. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

BASEBALL REGISTRATION: 7th Annual Native American Holiday Registration, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

PEACE: The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai, 7 p.m. See Sat.

ROE V WADE: National Organization for Women, Brooklyn Chapter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. See Sat.

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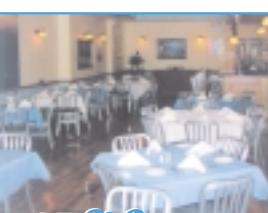
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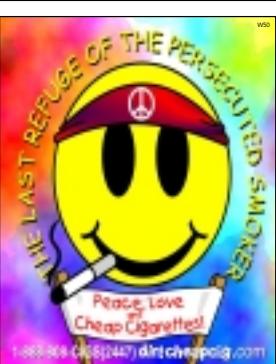
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GO 4

THE BROOKLYN PAPERS



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January 20, 2003

Name that play

Broadway buffs are sure to enjoy challenge of 'Don't Call Us' revue

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In a wonderful departure from their usual repertoire, the Galaxy Players will present an original musical review based on the world of "feuds, cheek and tears" we call Broadway.

"Don't Call Us (or Don't Give Up Your Day Job)" is directed by Mark Harborth who has directed such pieces Off-Off-Broadway and "An Evening in America" for the Playmakers — and features an ensemble of 15 men and women who sing and dance to the tunes that always say the same words, of some of Broadway's most enduring hits.

The songs in "Don't Call Us" are hilarious remakes of the original standards fit the mood of the show. Thus, "Make 'Em Laugh" becomes "Kill a Show," and "Tea for Two" becomes "Two Loving Stars." Some songs can easily be understood in a new light. "When He Likes Me, I Believe in You," "What Did I Have That I Didn't Have."

A few songs have been given totally new meanings like "Audition," sung to the tune of "Maria" from "West Side Story." But because Broadway is so fond of singing about itself, many of the songs fit perfectly with their original words, only slightly changed: "I'm a Star" and "I Hope I Get It."



Phone tag: (Front to back) Shane Breaux, Jennifer Luers and Peter Mensky in the Galaxy Players' production of "Don't Call Us (or, Don't Give Up Your Day Job)."

THEATER

THEATRE
The Galaxy Players production of "Don't Call Us" has a plot, of sorts, interspersed with the song and dance are vignettes featuring three actors: A young man who hasn't quite

from "A Chorus Line." "Don't Call Us" has a plot, of sorts, interspersed with the song and dance are vignettes featuring three actors: A young man who hasn't quite

to New York where she shares an apartment with two other aspiring actresses (Eve and Chloe) recently separated from their boyfriends. A wounded veteran who has seen it all and done it all hopes fervently for the comeback that will allow her to see it all and do it again.

A critic responds periodically with lines like, "The play had two strokes against it. One was that you couldn't hear half of it. The other was the half you could hear." It was true and tasteless enough to make any reviewer cringe.

The review gleefully illustrates the horrors of amateurism: the poor timing, the stiffness of actors and the rude-

HAMZA...

Continued from page GO 1
script by the Hamzansoma, with a cast of 14,000.

"The Adventures of Hamza" is organized by Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The principal lender to the exhibit, Vienna's MAK (the Austrian Museum of Applied

Arts Contemporary Art), with the world's largest holding of "Hamzansoma" paintings, has lent a core group of 28 paintings.

Four superbly preserved Persian miniatures from the Brooklyn Museum's own collection, including "Agha Div Brings the Chest of Armor to the King of Persia," come from the Brooklyn Museum's own collection, including "Agha Div Brings the Chest of Armor to the King of Persia,"

which reaches the foot of a huge mountain and is joined by Ra'im, Blood-Drinker, and Yaqut-Shining-Ruby." Umar,

Dignified as Marmal the Surgeon, Practices Quicksilver on the Sorcerers of Antali" and "The Ayars, Led by Soughbar Balkhi and Lulu the Spy, Slit the Throats of the Princes of Persia." From Sa Id Farrash-Nishah.

The museum enhances the appreciation for the Moghul artists by displaying the ingredients of their remarkable art.

Reaches the Foot of a Huge Mountain and is Joined by Ra'im, Blood-Drinker, and Yaqut-Shining-Ruby." Umar,

and verdigris. There is also a poster in the exhibition identifying the cast of characters — with illustrations, a sort of Playbill — so the viewer can more easily "read" the stories in the paintings.

For those unable to see the exhibit before it closes on Jan. 26, the exhibit's curator John Seyller, professor of art history at the University of Vermont, has also produced an informative catalogue of the show (Azimuth Editions, 2002).

On the contrary, Overy, a senior paper conservator at the Brooklyn Museum, authors an essay on the complicated, technical aspects of the paintings. Overy explains that the original illustrations are painted on fabric, while the stories were written in calligraphy on paper and attached to the reverse side of the illustrations. Supportive figures were included between the paintings and calligraphy, and elaborate margins were added.

After its visit in Brooklyn, "The Adventures of Hamza" will be off to the Royal Academy of Art in London from March 15 through June 8.

SWEET...

Continued from page GO 1
owe their violent realism to the choreography of TJ Glenn. "Sweet Bird of Youth" starts intensely, but slowly. This is mostly due to Williams' dialogue, which although brilliant, can be verbose. But after the first act, the intensity is broken down by that one is no longer bothered by the length of the play, which runs for close to three

hours with two intermissions.

At a time when the high visual experience of film has cast a shadow over the more literary stages script of a bygone era, the play's plausibility like Tennessee Williams are a joyful, sometimes painful, reminder of the power of the spoken word. Glenn's direction of Williams' characters express and explain the depth of their despair. The Gallery

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We have devised a relaxed cinematic forum where one can encounter the most enduring and fascinating culture in the world today. Question-and-answer sessions will follow screenings, bringing together filmmakers and experts from the community to discuss in depth the issues presented in the films.

The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob

Sat. Feb. 1st 8-10:30pm

A New York rabbi travels to Paris and gets mixed up in a comedy of errors. This is complicated by a broad slapstick farce about a bigoted businessman (Louis de Funès as Victor Pivert) who is forced to disguise himself as a rabbi. With echoes of silent-screen humor, this film is regarded in some circles as one of the funniest films ever made. Nominated for the 1974 Golden Globe Awards.

Featuring post-screening discussion with Mr. Paul Rothman, Independent filmmaker/Founder of the Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival.

Time of Favor

Sat. Feb. 8th 8-10:30pm

Winner of an Israeli Oscar including Best Picture, Time of Favor is a taut thriller about the tense relationship between Orthodox Jewish Nationalists and the military. An Orthodox soldier finds his loyalty torn between his Rabbi and his commanding officer.

Featuring post-screening discussion with a representative of the Israeli consulate.

Leon the Pig Farmer

Sat. Feb. 15th 8-10:30pm

In this zany British satire, Leon Geller is a "nice Jewish boy" who accidentally discovers that his biological father is a gentle pig farmer in Yorkshire. As he considers the differing lifestyles of the two sets of parents, Leon has to make a decision about his future.

Featuring post-screening discussion with Simcha Weinstein, former associate of the British Film Commission.

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